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Weekly Bulletin: Red Willow Dam

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The reservoir elevation of Hugh Butler Lake this morning is 2553.84 feet, content of 6,223 acre-feet. The target elevation is between 2,554 to 2,552 feet in elevation to allow additional investigation on the upstream face of the dam, and to assure the safety of the downstream areas. The last time the lake was at 2,560 in elevation was in 2002.

Reclamation is planning on conducting a public meeting in McCook, NE to inform the public of current and future activities related to Red Willow Dam. Tentatively the meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2010 at 7 pm at the Community Building on the Red Willow County Fairgrounds.

The current release from Red Willow Dam is 30 cfs. The release will be maintained for now to match the inflow and target elevation. It is emphasized that there have been no unusual seeps, leaks or sources of water detected by the current investigations.

A contract has been let to construct a road on the upstream face of the dam to allow additional exploration to occur. This will be on the right side of the dam, near the outlet works intake structure. Work under this contract will be subject to favorable weather conditions.

The downstream channel continues to be monitored as appropriate. No problems are being experienced at the current discharge rate.

The road across the dam has been closed to allow drill crews and engineers to conduct exploratory drilling from the crest of the dam and for the construction of the road. Additionally the area below the dam will also be limited from public access during this time.

Current updates and information are available at: www.usbr.gov/gp/nkao/redwillow/

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